



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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NOVEMBER 26, 2002
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER BANK MANAGER PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING \$95,000

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former bank manager pleaded guilty today to stealing more than \$95,000 from First National Bank in Houston, Mo.

Donna Kathleen Chambers, 32, of Bucyrus, Mo., waived her right to a grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning to a federal information charging her with stealing in excess of \$95,000 from First National Bank between March 1997 and February 15, 2002.

Chambers began employment with First National Bank in 1993, Graves said. She was promoted to Bookkeeping Manager in 1998 and to Assistant Vice President, Operations Manager in 1999. **Chambers** resigned her employment on February 15, 2002.

Chambers admitted that she began taking money from First National Bank in March 1997. Graves explained that this theft was accomplished by diverting internal bank receipts and other funds from the bank's internal accounts to individual accounts from which **Chambers** was authorized to withdraw funds. After diverting the bank's funds to these individual accounts, **Chambers** withdrew or otherwise used the funds for her benefit, Graves said. **Chambers** admitted that her thefts involved more than 75 separate diversions of bank funds, and several of these diversions individually involved more than \$1,000, for an aggregate theft of at least \$95,650.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Chambers** may be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. The court may also impose an order of restitution. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow